Message Text

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2692

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EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, CB, US, CH, ICRC

SUBJ: AMBASSADOR DEAN'S MEETING WITH GKR FOREIGN MINISTER

LEUKY LIM

CAMBODIA - B NO. 15

- 1. GKR FOREIGN MINISTER KEUKY LIM CALLED ON ME AT MY HOUSE AT HIS REQUEST EVENING APRIL 13. HE SAID HE WISHED TO DISCUSS HIS PLANS WITH ME AND OBTAIN MY VIEWS.
- 2. HE SAID HE IS THINKING OF GOING TO KUALA LUMPUR AND TRYING TO CONTACT THE CHINESE COMMUNIST AMBASSADOR TO MALAYSIA, WHO FORMERLY WAS STATIONED IN PHNOM PENH, IN ORDER TO GET A MESSAGE TO PEKING TO THE EFFECT THAT THE GKR IS TRYING TO FIND AN ORDERLY SOLUTION TO THE KHMER CONFLICT. HE ALSO PLANNED TO TELL THE CHINESE AMBASSADOR THAT THE MAIN CONCERN OF THE GKR IS TO AVOID A BLOODBATH AND TRY TO ENLIST THE PRC'S SUPPORT FOR WORKING OUT A SOLUTION ALONG THESE LINES.
- 3. KEUKY LIM THEN PLANNED TO GO TO THE U.S. IN ORDER TO MAKE A LAST MINUTE PLEA FOR CONTINUED AMERICAN ASSISTANCE TO THE GKR. FINALLY, HE PLANNED TO GO FROM WASHINGTON TO GENEVA IN ORDER TO MEET WITH THE INTERNATINAL RED CROSS LEADERSHIP TO EXPLORE WITH THEM WAYS THE INTERNATIONAL RED CROSS COULD PROVIDE ASYLUM IN PHNOM PENH FOR THOSE KHMER LEADERS WHO WOULD TAKE REFUGE UNDER THE CONFIDENTIAL

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RED CROSS FLAG IN THE EVENT THAT THE KC PHYSICALLY TAKE

CONTROL OF THE CITY. AGAIN, HIS PRIMARY CONCERN WAS TO PREVENT A BLOOD BATH AND ASSURE THE SAFE EXIT OF THOSE WHO PLACE THEMSELVES UNDER RED CROSS PROTECTION.

- 4. I REPLIED THAT I AM ONLY EMPOWERED TO TAKE NOTE OF HIS VIEWS AND WOULD PASS THEM ON TO WASHINGTON. I ALSO SAID THAT WHAT REALLY MATTERED WAS THAT HE, KEUKY LIM, ACT ON BEHALF OF THE NEW GKR LEADERSHIP IN PHNOM PENH AND NOT ACT ON HIS OWN AS A PRIVATE INDIVIDUAL. IN SHORT, I SUGGESTED THAT WHATEVER HE WISHED TO DO REQUIRED A MANDATE FROM THE GKR IN PHNOM PENH AND HE SHOULD CHECK OUT HIS PLANS WITH PHNOM PENH BEFORE EMBARKING ON HIS TRAVELS. KEUKY LIM THOUGHT THAT MY VIEWS MADE SENSE AND HE PLANNED TO TRY TO GET A MESSAGE TO PHNOM PENH TO GET AUTHORIZATION FROM THE GKR TO PROCEED WITH HIS PROJECT.
- 5. COMMENT: I THINK KEUKY LIM IS BASICALLY STALLING FOR TIME. HIS WIFE AND FAMILY ARE ALREADY IN FRANCE AND HE IS RELUCTANT TO GO BACK INTO PHNOM PENH AT THIS STAGE. HE IS UNDOUBTEDLY TRYING TO BE HELPFUL IN BRINGING ABOUT THE BEST DENOUEMENT POSSIBLE SO LONG AS THIS DOES NOT REQUIRE HIM TO GO BACK INTO PHNOM PENH. IN THE MEANTIME, I AM MAINTAINING CLOSE CONTACT WITH HIM
- 6. I HAVE JUST RECEIVED A LETTER FROM AN AMERICAN WHO HAD EXPRESSED A WILLINGNESS TO TAKE CARE OF TWO OF LONG BORET'S CHILDREN WHO ARE PRESENTLY BEING RAISED IN THE PHILIPPINES. I GAVE THE LETTER TO KEUKY LIM TO FORWARD TO LONG BORET. I HAD BEEN IN CONTACT WITH LONG BORET ABOUT THIS OFFER ABOUT TWO WEEKS AGO, BUT THE AMERICAN IN QUESTION HAD NEVER RECEIVED A DIRECT REPLY FROM LONG BORET. I SHOULD ADD THAT KEUKY LIM HAS ALSO BEEN VERY CORRECT IN HIS DEALINGS WITH THOSE KHMER VIPS (FORMER ACTING PRESIDENT SAUKHAM KHOY, MINISTER LONG BOTTA AND HIW WIFE, AND THE WIFE OF MINISTER OF EDUCATION PAN SOTHI) WHO WERE EVACUATED BY US TO THAILAND.

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